

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Mary Wright, Chief Deputy of State Parks, Announces Retirement

SACRAMENTO – State Parks Director Rusty Areias today announced the retirement of Mary Wright from her position as Chief Deputy of the State Department of Parks and Recreation. Wright has served in the number two leadership position at State Parks for two years, having been appointed to the position by Governor Gray Davis on May 28, 1999. Her last day will be Friday, June 29, 2001.

“I will be losing one of my most trusted and capable leaders and advisors within this department. But more than that,” said Areias, “the people of California will be losing one of the most committed proponents of our state park system. She has worked for over 25 years to make the California State Park system what it is today, one of the finest park systems in the world.”

Wright, 52, of Monterey, has served the Department of Parks and Recreation in several positions since 1976. Before being appointed to her present position, Ms. Wright served as the superintendent of the department’s Monterey District. She has also served as a deputy director, visitor service manager, director of the training center, and acting assistant director for the department.

“This has been an incredible experience,” said Wright. “State Parks has offered such a wonderfully rewarding career. I am so grateful for having been a part of a system that has genuinely contributed to the betterment of the daily lives of all Californians. But now, “ said Wright, “it’s my wish to return to the lifestyle of Big Sur, my home, and pursue other interests that have often been put aside over the years.”

“What is especially rewarding,” said Wright, “is that during my last two years, Governor Davis has made parks available to more people through lower park fees, the people of the state passed the largest parks bond issue in history, and we have begun a deferred maintenance program to bring parks back from more than a decade of budget cuts. All of that and more has reinforced a commitment to the environmental well-being of this state and it has been a privilege to have been a part of it.”

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California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>